



WASHINGTON STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION

Susan L. Rahr, Executive Director

19010 1st Avenue South • Burien, WA 98148 • Phone: 206-835-7300 • www.cjtc.state.wa.us

PIO Contact Information:

Rachelle Wright

rwright@cjtc.state.wa.us

206-835-7346

PRESS RELEASE

On Wednesday, September 21, 2016, the CIT Regional Conference held the 2016 Crisis Intervention Team Awards Dinner at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma, Washington.

The awards dinner was provided by the conference to recognize outstanding work by criminal justice personnel, Fire/EMS - first responders, mental health practitioners, and community partners for using Crisis Intervention Team tools to respond to persons in mental health crisis or with substance use disorders more effectively and safely. The conference and dinner were sponsored by the WA State Criminal Justice Training Commission, the CIT-King CO program in partnership with King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division through the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Plan (MIDD), Oregon DPSST (OR), FNBI – Seattle CAAA, Marion County Crisis Outreach Response Team (OR), Portland Police Bureau (OR), and the Performance Leadership Institute, Inc. (OR). The dinner included speeches, awards presentations, and entertainment from Jeff Evans, comedy magician.

Earlier in 2016 notification was sent out to the public that nominations were being accepted for awards. Nomination applications were submitted that had to answer the following narrative question: "In 750 words or less describe what this person/agency/organization/program has done either as a response to an incident or overall work in 2015-2016 to earn this nomination and what makes the work remarkable, what the work has accomplished, and if this nomination would be supported by the community (if so, whom)."

Awards were presented as follows:

1. 2016 CIT Coordinator of the Year – Community Liaison Ken Irwin (Retired Sheriff, Yakima County Sheriff's Office); Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health, Yakima, WA

- a. Nomination submitted by Sgt. Duane Kist, Kennewick Police Department; Kennewick, WA.

Narrative: "Ken, having been in Law Enforcement for many, many years and now retired as Sheriff Yakima Co SO, has arrived and taken to task the CIT Model within Comprehensive Healthcare Yakima. He did not draw borders around Yakima and leave it at that. Ken recognized the need for a concerted effort in all of SE Washington. With the State Mandated 8 Hour CIT Training Initiative Ken took it upon himself to orchestrate the local Law Enforcement Needs throughout the region and assemble the right local Mental Health Alliances to assist and coordinate the 8 Hour CIT Training Block that included available resources for that particular jurisdiction. I have observed Ken's working with the many entities throughout the Mental Health Arena and Ken has no enemies but only friends as he has the people skills and is a great listener providing positive feedback while keeping sight of the goal in mind seeing that the training product produced and instructed at the many jurisdictions were of the upmost quality. Ken seen to it that the attending students walked out of an 8 hour/40 hour training with better tools to service their communities. With the new 8 Hour CIT Training being conducted across the state, Ken seen to it that nobody was left out in his domain hence facilitating as many training classes needed to allow all to attend, three days in our Department. Ken went



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even further in that he also facilitated our 40 hour CIT Training here at Kennewick Police Department for which we have been hosting for 10+ years. Ken came to the meetings and stayed involved and helped wherever he could. Ken has developed positive relationships with the many entities of Mental health here in the Tri-Cities and I can bet the same holds true for the other jurisdictions.

Ken Irwin truly exemplifies and models what works in pulling together the pieces fulfilling the needs of not only of the community at large but also the many Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers and their particular needs in the Mental Health Arena. Ken has not forgotten what brought him to this level. Ken has what it takes to built a path to success and watch all that lead with him in building alliances the entire way. With Ken's leadership the dateline for having all Law Enforcement having completed, at minimum, the 8 Hour CIT Training Block is well ahead of schedule."

2. 2016 CIT Agency Executive of the Year – Chief Jail Deputy Ric Bishop, Clark County Sheriff's Office; Vancouver, WA

- a. Nomination submitted by Corrections Commander Randal Tangen, Clark County Sheriff's Office; Vancouver, WA.

Narrative: "When Chief Bishop accepted his appointment as Chief Corrections Deputy in May of 2013, he found himself in charge of an organization with a high rate of inmate suicide, poor or non-existent relationships with local service providers, and a workforce ill-prepared to deal with the dozens of mentally ill inmates in their care. Chief Bishop acted quickly, appealing to the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) for assistance in establishing a CIT program. His request was granted, and in late 2013, a 3-person delegation made up of a jail sergeant, jail mental health counselor, and a Clark County NAMI representative attended a CIT for Corrections Train-the-Trainer event in Denver, Colorado. They returned to Clark County with a blueprint for setting up a local CIT program, and set about doing just that.

The following year saw the start of the Clark County Reentry Program – another initiative of Chief Bishop's – and with it the birth of new and productive relationships with community organizations who serve justice-involved populations. These relationships were leveraged to support the first-ever Clark County Corrections CIT, offered in February of 2015. Under the watchful eye of an NIC expert, 24 students from Clark and surrounding counties attended classes and presentations given by local experts who donated their time and knowledge for the benefit of their local Corrections Deputies.

In 2015, the new Reentry program earned local funding for two full-time masters-level Jail Discharge Planners (JDP) to work with the most challenging reentry cases – typically people with mental illness. The JDPs, in turn, have brought their unique professional expertise to bear in subsequent CIT offerings, bringing the quality of the program to heights previously unimagined.

To date, Clark County has sponsored three 40-hour CIT for Corrections events, providing this unique opportunity to Clark County Deputies and officers from numerous agencies in Washington and Oregon. In 2016, the Clark County Corrections CIT program was invited to present at the CIT International Conference in Chicago, IL – an achievement we are extremely proud of!

In conclusion, Chief Bishop's vision and leadership have created an atmosphere in Clark County where people in our community who previously viewed the jail as an adversary, now see it as an important partner in serving persons with mental illness. While our jail cannot and should not be considered a treatment facility, it is now a place where people who need help can get it – or at least be understood, treated humanely, and offered resources upon release.



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Chief Bishop's steadfast leadership has brought our community together, made our jail safer, and has achieved true progress in the field of CIT in a facility that needed it badly."

3. 2016 CIT Non-commissioned Staff of the Year – Susan Schoeld, Crisis Diversion Program Manager, King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division; Seattle, WA

- a. Nomination submitted by CIT Statewide and King CO program managers, Bob Graham and Rachelle Wright.

Narrative: "Ms. Schoeld has been the program manager from King County Behavioral Health since 2011, overseeing the contract of funding and providing support through the Mental Illness Drug Dependency Plan or MIDD. As he manager, she has on countless occasions stepped in and provided support for added trainings, attended King County meeting with consumers, stakeholders, and the public, represented and presented statistical data on training completed in King County and provided support and training for every CIT 40-HR class since 2012, specifically providing instruction on the King County Mobile Crisis Team and use of the Crisis Solution Center. To date, over 4000 personnel have been trained in King County alone and Susan has been an instrumental part of that training. She has single handedly provided roll call trainings all over King County at all hours of the day, and has worked to develop and support the advancement of training in King County to now look at CIT Beyond and support the development of specific trainings for Corrections and Fire/EMS as well. Susan is a pleasure to work with, and we look forward to the continued partnership and support with the CIT program staff at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission."

4. 2016 CIT Mental Health Practitioner of the Year – Susie Kroll, MA, MHP, LMHCA, Clinic Manager, Valley Cities Behavioral Health; Seattle and Kent, WA

- a. Nominations were submitted by CEM Dave Nichols from Public Health Seattle & King County; Officer Russ Hicks, WSCJTC; Project Director Julia Colson, Seattle King County Clinic at Seattle Center; and Regional Operations Director Alaina Goodman from Valley Cities Behavioral Health.

Narrative: "The reason I am recommending Susie for this award is the extraordinary amount of community involvement work she does outside of her day job at Meridian Center for Health.

Susie is one of my Volunteers in the Public Health Reserve Corps where she is one of the leads for the Behavioral Health team and is always available to help with training and mentoring. Through this position, she has accepted the role of Behavioral Health lead with a concentration on coordinating effective patient care and crisis resolution with the Seattle PD for the Seattle & King County Clinic at Key Arena in October, at that event we will serve 4,000 people. Susie also utilizes her skills to teach at our police academy on Behavioral Health and culture, she also follows up with ride along's with patrol officers and crisis teams to teach skills for defusing situations in the environment they happen.

She is currently on call with the King County Sheriff's department Hostage negotiation team.

Susie is a wonderful community resource that embodies everything you would want in a award winner, and I am happy to nominate her for this award. Dave Nichols, CEM"

- b. Other nominees for the award included:



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- i. Justin Dawson, LCSW, Downtown Emergency Services Center (DESC), Seattle, WA; former MHP for Seattle Police Department. Nomination submitted by Craig Jaffe, MD, from DESC.
- ii. Administrator Laura Collins of the Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Department at Harborview Medical Center. Nominations were submitted by Senior Specialist Manka Dhingra, from the King County Prosecutors Office and Law & Justice Policy Advisor Gail Stone from the King County Executive's Office.

5. 2016 CIT Community Resource of the Year – NAMI Washington, main office Seattle, WA

- a. A nomination was submitted by CIT Statewide and King CO Program Managers, Bob Graham and Rachelle Wright and it specifically recognized the following NAMI local affiliate programs: NAMI Greater Seattle, NAMI Eastside, NAMI Southwest Washington, NAMI Thurston/Mason, NAMI Chelan Douglas, NAMI Tri-Cities, and NAMI Snohomish.

Narrative: "Since the mid 2000s local affiliate NAMI programs, like NAMI Chelan Douglas and NAMI Thurston/Mason to name a few, have joined with the WSCJTC CIT program managers to build partnerships and provide training supports specifically in the Crisis Intervention 40-HR Basic classes. Program support has included immersion lunches, In Our Own Voice presentations, attendance from Peer Supports, and much more. Without these partnerships we have not been able to provide a window into living with mental health issues and what life is like. The WSCJTC values the support from NAMI as it has enriched our programs having the input to help all first responders and criminal justice personnel respond effectively to those in crisis, whether from mental health issues, substance use disorders, or just a crisis in general. We couldn't recognize just one affiliate program in Washington since they have all been so instrumental in the training of personnel so we nominated NAMI Washington because they have made a huge impact and will continue to do so for criminal justice personnel and first responders here in Washington."

6. 2016 CIT Fire/EMS-First Responder of the Year – Assistant Chief Brian Schaeffer, Spokane Fire Department; Spokane, WA

- a. The CIT Regional Conference Committee unanimously nominated Assistant Chief Schaeffer with support from Spokane Police Department Crisis Intervention Team personnel.

Narrative: "Over the past few years the CIT programs have watched partnerships and collaborations between law enforcement and fire/EMS personnel develop across the state of Washington. Assistant Chief Schaeffer has been instrumental in building these partnerships in Spokane, Washington. The Spokane Police Department supports this nomination with the following words, 'Brian is a true example of someone making their work their life's passion. He devotes most of his time to bettering the community in which he serves through his work at the Spokane Fire Department. The citizens of Spokane have greatly benefited from his innovative ideas such as the Cares Program and the Alternative Response Unit Program. He volunteers countless hours to benefit organizations in the Spokane area as well.'"



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7. 2016 CIT Corrections Officer/Program of the Year – Clark County Corrections Program, Clark County Sheriff's Office; Vancouver, WA

- a. The CIT Regional Conference Committee unanimously nominated the Clark County Corrections Program for this award.

Narrative: "The Clark County Corrections Program has worked hard to develop an amazing Crisis Intervention Team training program for their personnel. Using the National Institute of Corrections model and guidance they have offered the training and allowed others to audit and learn from their work. They have attended the CIT International Conference and presented on corrections specific issues receiving many accolades as well as have presented on important issues here in our region addressing corrections tools and tactics and a sex trafficking screening tool developed by the staff. They have also joined the CIT program managers at the WSCJTC on the CIT for Corrections committee and have volunteered their time to help develop a statewide training for corrections personnel that is currently in the pilot training stage. The program staff are passionate about their work and will continue to develop partnerships with their community, regional stakeholders, and others to make the training offered the best it can be to meet the needs of Clark County and we applaud them for their efforts to develop training and tools to respond effectively to those in behavioral health crisis or with substance use disorders."

8. 2016 CIT Law Enforcement Officer of the Year – Officer Kent Loux, Seattle Police Department; Seattle WA, & Officer Erik Martin, Bothell Police Department; Bothell, WA

- a. A nomination was submitted by Collin Jevne from the DESC Mobile Crisis Team for Officer Loux.

Narrative: "I've worked with Officer Loux on multiple occasions and he has always shown extraordinary tact, intuition, compassion, kindness and patience with our clients. This was particularly noted last during an outreach with a homeless, very vulnerable, suicidal client outside of DESC's SAGE program office. Officer Loux was incredibly person centered as he listened intently and put in the time necessary for the client to make his own decisions, despite what everyone else who was present on the outreach wanted the client to do. By doing this he empowered the client to take control of his life and gave him a voice which had been so often taken away from him. By the end of the outreach I could see that the client felt valued, listened to and had an immense amount of trust and respect for officer Loux. The client was able to calm down, speak frankly and even joke around. He is a great asset to our community!

Just as a side note, this client has now been housed. When I approached him to congratulate him on getting housing, he specifically stated that the interaction with officer Loux made him feel like he could trust in the police and DESC to respect him and his needs, and therefore agreed to enroll in our program which led to him getting housed."

- b. A nomination was submitted by Melanie Streight, Parent, from Bothell, WA, for Officer Martin.

Narrative: "I would like to nominate Officer Eric Martin of the Bothell Police Department. As the parent of a child on the autism spectrum who exhibits extreme behavior outbursts with verbal and physical aggression, Officer Martin has consistently maintained a positive relationship with my son. He will take the time to sit with him on the ground, to create a "contract" with him, to set expectations and then (most importantly) follow through. In one instance he made a deal with my son that if he had good behavior for a week, that he would take him for a ride in the police car. The look of pure joy and pride (on both of their faces) when he successfully completed a week of positive behavior -



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was nothing less than priceless. He has given my son his cell phone number which is saved in his phone, my son has used it to text Officer Martin to share good news with him and he responds back. When we need to call 911 for help, if he is in the area he will go out of his way to assist because he knows what kids on the spectrum need and he is always more than willing to provide it. Despite numerous police interventions for my son, Officer Martin is one of the reasons why he continues to have respect for the officers who come to his aid. We are ever so thankful to have him and consider him part of our extended team for my son."

c. Other nominees for the award included:

- i. Officer Ryan Beck from the Seattle, Police Department. A nomination was submitted by Nicole Yeater from the DESC Mobile Crisis Team.
- ii. Sergeant Daniel Nelson from the Seattle Police Department. A nomination was submitted by Clinic Manager Susie Kroll from Valley Cities Behavioral Health.
- iii. Officer J. Anthonio Steele from the Issaquah Police Department. A nomination was submitted by Interim Commander Ryan Raulerson from the Issaquah Police Department.
- iv. Officer Roxanne Zech from the Seattle Police Department. A nomination was submitted by Michael Volz from the DESC Mobile Crisis Team.

We congratulate all of the nominees and award winners for their outstanding work in providing a safe community using crisis intervention team tools.

Additional photos from the event can be found at www.facebook.com/cithappens.

Picture:





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Michael D. Parsons, Ph.D. Executive Director

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2016 Award Recipients: (Left to Right) Back: Sergeant Clark, Clark County Corrections Program, Clark CO SO; Ms. Lookingbill, Clark County Corrections Program (CCSO); Sergeant Addie, Clark County Corrections Program (CCSO); Commander Randal Tangen, Clark County Corrections Program (CCSO).

Front: Chief Jail Deputy Bishop, Clark County Sheriff's Office; Ms. Anderson, Clark County Corrections Program (CCSO); Officer Martin, Bothell Police Department; Officer Loux, Seattle Police Department; Ms. Kroll, Valley Cities Behavioral Health; Ms. Schoeld, King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division; Ms. Moore, NAMI Washington; Mr. Irwin, Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health.

Mission: Train Criminal Justice Personnel to Deliver the Highest Quality Service to the Communities of Washington State

Values: Professionalism • Integrity • Accountability